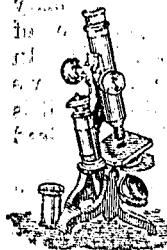


## Medical Matters.

### TREATMENT OF GASTRIC ULCER.



Professor Fleiner (*Munch. med. Woch.*) advises prolonged rest in bed at the beginning of treatment. The patient should receive nothing by mouth for several days, as the stomach contracts best when empty, and contraction promotes healing. The lips and mouth may be kept moist by applications. If there is any meteorism, an ice-bag is to be applied for a few hours. A strict milk diet, small quantities frequently repeated, is to be begun after several days, and gradually arrowroot, rice-flour and cream may be added to the milk. If these are well digested, soups and broth may be given, and at the end of the fourth week, meat, chicken, pigeon, and tender lamb may be tried, with eggs, and foods prepared from flour. Rare meats are not to be given until the end of the sixth week, and they may be combined with digestible vegetables—spinach, turnips, cauliflower, and asparagus tips. Cooked fruit only must be allowed, so as not to bring acid into the stomach. The patient must be instructed to avoid hard foods, and not to allow pits or stones to enter the stomach, so as not to disturb the new and delicate scar.

### THE POISON OF SPIDERS.

*Die Medicinische Woch.* contains an article by Professor Kobat, "The Action of Spider Bites upon the Urine." The author has established the fact that a large number of spiders, even garden spiders, and the Prussian black spider, contain in all parts of the body a very powerful hæmolytic poison. A case has recently occurred in Argentina in which the bite of *Lathrodectes Mactans* has caused the appearance of very large quantities of albumen in the urine. No red corpuscles were observed in the same, but much black hæmoglobin, oxyhæmoglobin, and urobilin were present. On the second day after the bite albumen and colouring matters were still to be found, but in smaller quantity. On the third day only traces of urobilin could be detected. And in other respects the urine was still abnormal, for it contained a substance which, though possessing no reducing power and being optically inactive, yet manifested great efficacy in producing fermentation. This substance belonged to the group of carbohydrates, and on being boiled with dilute acids

was transformed into sugar. The blood of the patient contained a substance almost identical with that just referred to.

### ADVANTAGES OF THE ICE-PACK.

In discussing the disadvantages of the tub-bath in the treatment of typhoid, Dr. L. Ross (*Phil. Med. Jour.*) calls attention to the very frequent invasion of a pneumonic process which is due to the exposure of the patient during the bath, also to the shock attending the transfer from a warm bed, to the danger from hæmorrhage and perforation due to the rough handling, to the relatively short effect of the immersion on the temperature. He believes that these disadvantages are obviated by the cold pack, which can be briefly described as follows: The temperature is taken per rectum q. 4. h., and if it be over 102° Fahr. the pack is given. Whisky (ʒi.) may be given before and after, if the urine be negative; if not, hot milk should be given. The bed being properly protected by a rubber sheet with a blanket over it, the patient is wrapped up in a sheet and blanket wrung out in water at a temperature of 70° Fahr. Half an hour later a second sheet at a temperature of 60° Fahr. is substituted for the first, which is changed again in another thirty minutes to one at a temperature of 50° Fahr. At this time the axillary spaces, the arms and legs, may be packed with cracked ice outside the sheets. The pack is repeated for the last time at a temperature of 40°, the entire procedure consuming two hours. The thermometer always shows a drop of from 2° to 5°, and it is claimed that the method acts as a sedative, that it stimulates the heart, does away with shock and rough handling, and can be more readily given than the tub-bath.

### REFUGES FOR GERMS.

Dr. J. P. Langlois, reviewing the progress of hygiene in France, draws attention to the danger of churches and cathedrals as refuges for germs. "Where the sunlight comes not, there the doctor comes," is an old Italian proverb, and it is unnecessary to point out that in many cathedrals there is very little sunlight. During an outbreak of diphtheria at Sassari the Löffler diphtheritic bacillus was found in the holy water at the cathedral by Dr. Vincenzi; and Professor Abba also isolated Koch's bacillus in the holy water at Turin. At Turin, Professor Remlinger found in the water in the font fifteen thousand bacteria per cubic centimetre.

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